

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for indicating the state of a vehicle, comprising:  
a housing mountable to a vehicle; and  
a first side-emitting light-emitting diode mounted to said housing.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a reflector, wherein said reflector reflects the light emanating from said first side-emitting light-emitting diode.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said reflector is multifaceted.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a power source in electrical communication with said first side-emitting light-emitting diode.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus emits light in a pattern ranging between five degrees from the vehicle's front to five degrees from the vehicle's rear in the vehicle's horizontal plane, and ranging between 50 degrees up to 20 degrees down in the vehicle's vertical plane.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said apparatus emits light in a pattern ranging between 90 degrees from the vehicle's front to five degrees from the vehicle's rear in the vehicle's horizontal plane, and ranging between 15 degrees up to 15 degrees down in the vehicle's vertical plane.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second side-emitting light-emitting diode mounted to said housing.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a conventional light-emitting diode mounted to said housing, wherein said conventional light-emitting diode primarily emits light radially over a portion of the hemisphere located above said light-emitting diode.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first side-emitting light-emitting diode emits light primarily in the visible electromagnetic spectrum.
10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said first side-emitting light-emitting diode emits light primarily in the yellow visible electromagnetic spectrum.
11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cover.
12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said cover is primarily transparent in the visible electromagnetic spectrum.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said cover is primarily transparent in the yellow visible electromagnetic spectrum.
14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first side-emitting light-emitting diode transmits light at two intensity levels.
15. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising circuitry, wherein said circuitry provides for alternating illumination intensity levels of said first side-emitting light-emitting diode.

16. A method for indicating the status of a vehicle, comprising:  
mounting a side-emitting light-emitting diode to a vehicle; and  
powering the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
17. The method of claim 16 further comprising protecting the side-emitting light-emitting diode from weather or travel conditions.
18. The method of claim 16 further comprising reflecting the light emitted from the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein said reflecting utilizes a multifaceted reflector.
20. The method of claim 16 further comprising focusing the light emitted from the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein said focusing utilizes a transparent lens.
22. The method of claim 16 further comprising filtering the light emitted from the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein said filtering primarily allows visual electromagnetic spectrum light to pass.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said filtering primarily allows yellow visual electromagnetic spectrum light to pass.

25. An apparatus, comprising:  
a vehicle; and  
means for indicating the state of a vehicle, wherein said means includes a side-emitting light-emitting diode.
26. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising means for protecting the side-emitting light-emitting diode from weather or travel conditions.
27. The method of claim 25 further comprising means for reflecting the light emitted from the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
28. The method of claim 25 further comprising means for powering the side-emitting light-emitting diode.
29. The method of claim 25 further comprising means for focusing the light emitted from the side-emitted light-emitting diode.
30. The method of claim 25 further comprising means for filtering the light emitted from the side-emitted light-emitting diode.